

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/625,258

Examiner

Louis K. Huynh

Applicant(s)

ROMAGNOLI, ANDREA

Art Unit

3721

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed 4/11/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-42.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 23 July 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

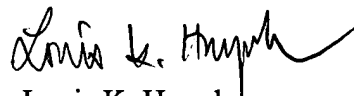
1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record fails to disclose and/or teach a machine for making filter bags containing infusion product that comprises in combination: a unit (53) for preparing and feeding materials used to make the filter bags (1), a metering assembly (54), a forming unit (55), a dividing unit (56) and a cutting unit (57); wherein:

- in the unit (53) for preparing and feeding material, a web (17) of filter paper bearing a layer of heat-activated glue and a continuous thread (31) are moving continuously through the unit (53) while tags (6) and the thread (31) are associated with each other in rhythmical sequence at the ends of thread portions (7) that lie lengthwise relative to the filter paper web (17), have a predetermined length, and are delimited at their ends by first loops (10) made in the thread (31) itself;
- the metering assembly (54) places charges (19) of the infusion product on the filter paper web (17);
- in the forming unit (55), the web (17) of filter paper is folded onto itself in such a way as to form a tube (34) inside which the metering assembly (54) places charges (19) of the infusion product, the tube (34) then is gradually closed by sealing it along its longitudinal edges (18);
- in the dividing unit (56), pairs of sealed transversal joins (4, 5) are made in the tube (34) upstream and downstream of each tag (6), these transversal sealed joins (4, 5) dividing the tube (34) into a succession of substantially flattened containment chambers (2) containing corresponding charges (19) of the infusion product;

Art Unit: 3721

- and in the cutting unit (57), the tube (36) is cut into successive lengths, lying flat and lengthwise and each constituting the containment chamber (2) of a filter bag.
2. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."
 3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Louis K. Huynh whose telephone number is (571) 272-4462. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 9:30AM to 5:00PM.
 4. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rinaldi I. Rada can be reached on (571) 272-4467. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.
 5. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Louis K. Huynh
PRIMARY EXAMINER
Art Unit 3721

May 01, 2005